

Technical Notes

How to Remove Rivets

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Most rivets on the Model A Ford range in size from 3/16 inch diameter to 3/8 inch diameter. These can be found with the following head shapes; counters~ flat, round and oval. (Fig1). The following are examples of the size of rivets and where they might be located on the Model A Ford. 3/16 inch = floor pans, floor sills, front quarters, body parts. 1/4 inch = cross members, frame brackets, pickup beds. 5/16 inch = cross members, running board brackets. 3/8 inch = rear bumper brackets. My example is for the removal of a ~ or 5/16 diameter rivet. Drill bit and punch sizes will need to be changed for the other sizes.



Countersunk



Flat



Round



Oval

Fig. 1

To easily remove rivets use these steps.

1. Wear eye protection
2. Use a #3 center drill to drill a pilot hole. Use your eye to center the hole.
3. Drill the pilot hole with a 7/32 diameter twist bit about 1/2 inch deep. (Fig.3)
4. Use a 5/8 or 3/4 cold chisel to remove the rivet head. This works well because by drilling you have removed most of the rivet metal.
5. Use a 3/16 or 7/32 drift punch to knock out the remaining rivet.-The drilled hole in the rivet body will provide a holding surface for the punch.



Fig. 2
Center drill



Fig. 3
Appearance after drilling

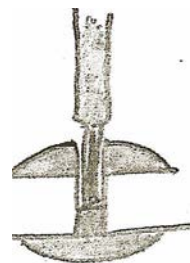


Fig. 4
Shows the holding area
for the punch.